



## THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

**THE TREATMENT OF DIABETES MELLITUS—9th Edition.** Elliott P. Joslin, A.M., M.D., Sc.D., Medical Director, George F. Baker Clinic, New England Deaconess Hospital, Clinical Professor Emeritus, Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Howard F. Root, M.D., Associate in Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Priscilla White, M.D., Sc.D., Instructor in Pediatrics, Tufts College Medical School; and Alexander Marble, A.M., M.D., Clinical Associate in Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1952. 771 pages, \$12.00.

This ninth edition of Joslin's classic book on diabetes still occupies the number one position among the books on diabetes.

It seems as though everything regarding diabetes is mentioned, and there are innumerable references to all phases of diabetes. Actually the only omission this reviewer could find was that the distinction between the glucose tolerance tests of liver disease and of diabetes was not too clearly defined.

The book is unduly long and some parts seem rather laboriously written, and it is also true that one can't sit right down with it and find quickly how to treat a new diabetic. Nevertheless, it is hard to imagine anyone treating many diabetics without having this book handy as a frequent reference.

It is truly a "must" as a handy reference book for any internist or general practitioner.

\* \* \*

**OPERATING TECHNIQUE—Fourth edition.** St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, Minn. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 345 pages, \$6.50.

This excellently gotten up little book fulfills its purpose in every way. Its authors state that in the operating rooms at St. Mary's Hospital uniformity and simplicity of procedure are stressed with allowances for the preferences of the surgeon and requirements of the patient. Excellence, uniformity, simplicity and clarity are the chief virtues of this volume.

The specialist in gynecological surgery may object to having his operations included in the procedures in general surgery, the younger surgeon trained in operations on the large bowel may wonder what a "Kraske" operation is, the surgeon particularly interested in the gastrointestinal field may affect surprise at the employment of three layers of suture in gastrointestinal anastomosis. Others may check a flaw here and there according to their own beliefs, but the present reviewer is going to leave the book just as it is and congratulate the staff of St. Mary's Hospital on their work in the operating room and in the compilation of this book. In operative surgery it is vital to hold fast to that which has been proved sound, at the same time accepting what is good as well as new. This book does both these things admirably.

Attention is called particularly to the excellent illustrations which with the help of a sympathetic surgeon should aid nurses in understanding the procedures in which they

play so vital a part. Chapter eight on the "Surgical Team" with its outline of the duties of the surgical assistants and the operating room nurses, is excellent.

To make the book perfect, any operating room supervisor or surgeon may make the few deletions and marginal additions she or he fancies—for which a short pencil sharpened only once will suffice.

\* \* \*

**VIRAL AND RICKETTSIAL INFECTIONS IN MAN—2nd Edition.** Edited by Thomas M. Rivers, M.D., Director of the Hospital, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 719 pages with 90 illustrations, including seven plates in color, \$7.50.

The first edition of this book was a landmark in medical teaching since it was the first correlated comprehensive description of viruses, rickettsia, and the diseases caused by them which was suitable for students and practitioners of medicine. It is midway in scope between the more recent, more brief work, "Virus and Rickettsial Diseases," by Bedson and his associates, and the monumental review, "Virus Diseases of Man," by van Rooyen and Rhodes. Every student and physician should be familiar with these three books. The volume under review is most suitable for their own shelves since it contains adequate but not excessively detailed information about all phases of virus disease—clinical, microbiological, immunological, and epidemiological. In addition, it is very reasonably priced because of a subsidy from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

The Second Edition is 132 pages longer than the first and contains four new chapters: Hemagglutination of Viruses, Interference Between Animal Viruses, Diagnosis of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases, and the Coxsackie Group. Spot checking of many chapters reveals a substantial revision throughout the book and every important advance in knowledge with which the reviewer was familiar and for which he sought was included in the text. The chapter on poliomyelitis has been completely rewritten and includes some handsome color photographs of the pathology of the disease.

Paper, printing, and binding are of excellent quality, and the numerous illustrations are beautifully done. No typographical or errors of fact were discovered. The book may be highly recommended. Those who already own the first edition will not find sufficient new information in this volume to require replacement unless they are particularly interested in the field of virus and rickettsial disease, or responsible for teaching about it.

\* \* \*

**LOW FAT DIET COOK BOOK.** Dorothy Myers Hildreth and Eugene A. Hildreth, M.D. Medical Research Press, 100 Park Avenue, New York, 1952. 148 pages, including 12 pages for notes, \$2.95.

This book is devoted entirely to suggested menus and recipes on a low fat diet. The recipes look good and any patient inflicted with a low fat diet could obtain useful information from this book. There is no point in a doctor reading it unless he just wants to look at recipes.